

I would urge you to advance LB 378. We have spent many hours of floor time on LB 378 reviewing numerous amendments and listening to a great deal of discussion on certificate of need but most of the discussion has been on health care costs. If you've followed the newspapers you've seen I don't know how many editorials that have come out recently berating LB 378 as getting certificate of need, making certificate of need ineffective, say its the industry's bill or whatever. Well I am the primary architect of LB 378 and I worked with the health care industry in working on this bill and I also listened to the Department of Health on many of the issues in this bill in the last session of the Legislature and I looked over their proposals and my proposals and I don't think that this is a one-sided proposal and I do think that LB 378 in its current form is going to do something. It is going to do something constructive. It is going to give the certificate of need process a chance to work. LB 378 isn't anti-health care costs just because Senator Wesely says it is. LB 378 is a bill that I think is going to give the certificate of need process an opportunity to function in a meaningful way. You know if you listened to the statistics I threw out earlier one health systems agency was spending 50% of its time reviewing applications under \$500,000 and that comprises only 4.7% of the total projects that were subject to review and that just isn't good use of time. It didn't allow that particular health systems agency in that state for that certificate of need process to concentrate on major projects which significantly add to the health care costs. It bogged them down so much in paper work that they couldn't do a good job on the big projects that need meaningful review. Now Senator Wesely can't tell me that certificate of need has worked in the state and neither can anyone else because I have reviewed each of those, a summary of those applications. I have asked for the information from the Department of Health and I'll have it and I'll share it with any of you. And if you can look at that information, if you can look at how, what has happened to those certificate of need applications and tell me that certificate of need has saved money, you'll just have to explain it better than I can understand it because I think that certificate of need has done nothing in the state but add to health care costs and it has done that because it costs a good deal of money to run through that long complicated process which we've showed to you earlier and ninety of ninety-two of those applications were ultimately approved anyway. So if certificate of need saves money, I'd like someone to explain how. I don't believe it. When we talk about health care costs and I acknowledge and I believe as fervently as anyone in this body that we need